Setting up of a base in the Arabian Sea by Pakistan

785. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of any plan by Pakistan to set up a base in the Arabian sea, particularly at Karachi which will be capable of accommodating nuclear submarines;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) whether Government have noticed any leakage of these plans in the recent agrement between Pakistan and China on nuclear weapons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (Shri K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Government have seen reports that a nuclear submarine had visited Karachi port in March 1986. Government also have reports that a Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman said on Octobre 22, 1986 that nuclear powered or nuclear weapon carrying ships were not barred from making port calls at Karachi.

(b) Government continues to maintain a constant vigil over all developments having a bearing on the country's security.

(c) This agreement has not so far been published.

Liberalisation of visa rules

786. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether reciprocal liberalisation of visa rules are being reviewed in consultation with the western countries; and

(b) if so, what are (i) the names of the counries, (ii) present visa restrictions and (iii) lines on which they are proposed to be simplified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Visa arrangements with various countries are adjusted from time to time on the basis of reciprocity and a variety of other relevent considerations.

(b) Information is benig compiled and will be placed on the Table of the House.

World Congress of Sociology

787. DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two South African Whites attended the World Congress of Sociology held in New Delhi recently;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government had granted visas to them;

(c) whether Government had participated in this Conference; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Two South African Whites who are activists against the South African policy of apartheid were granted visas to attend XI World Congress of Sociology held in New Delhi from 18th to 23rd August, 1986.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.